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Words to Action Coordinator
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CEO and National Director
Jonathan Greenblatt

Deputy National Director
Kenneth Jacobson

December 16, 2019

Justice Andrew J. McDonald
State of Connecticut Criminal Justice Commission
c/o Division of Criminal Justice
300 Corporate Place
Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067



RE: Public Comment Regarding Search for a Connecticut Chief State's Attorney

Dear Justice McDonald and Distinguished Members of the Criminal Justice Commission:

I am writing on behalf of ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) to share our top priorities with respect to the qualities we would like to see in Connecticut's next Chief State's Attorney. In short, we urge the Commission to consider an individual who will work to eliminate bias in the criminal justice system and reform practices that disproportionately impact communities of color in our state.

As you may know, ADL is a leading anti-hate organization founded in 1913 to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all. As such, ADL works vigorously to ensure that each individual receives equal treatment under the law regardless of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. In addition, as a leading non-governmental trainer of law enforcement, including on the topics of extremism, implicit bias and hate crimes, ADL has an acute understanding of the importance of transparency and accountability in the criminal law system.

In ADL's view, the next Chief State's Attorney must be an active partner in ongoing efforts to decrease mass incarceration, eliminate racial disparities in the criminal law system, and increase prosecutorial transparency and accountability to constituents, including with respect to the investigation of police misconduct and the prosecution of hate crimes. This will require a clear commitment to developing and enforcing uniform, publicly-available policies and procedures for all prosecutors in the state that further these goals. It will also require the next Chief State's Attorney to play an active role in advocating for laws and policies that focus on data collection and training for prosecutors regarding racial justice and implicit bias in the criminal law system. Finally, it will demand the prioritization of evidence-based juvenile justice reform measures, including diversion and restorative justice practices, which are already underway in Connecticut.

ADL Connecticut

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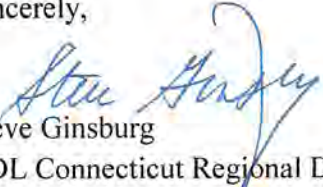
Jonathan Greenblatt

Deputy National Director

Kenneth Jacobson

We urge the Commission to continue to cast a wide net in its search and to seek input from the community in order to select a new Chief State's Attorney who will prioritize forward-thinking, data-driven criminal law reforms that enhance public safety and ensure justice and fair treatment for all.

Sincerely,


Steve Ginsburg
ADL Connecticut Regional Director

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